

Mr. Lerone Bennett, Jr., Clarksdale, Mississippi,

Ms. Claudine K. Brown, Brooklyn, New York.

As nonvoting members:

Mr. J.C. WATTS, Jr., Norman, Oklahoma,

Mr. JOHN LEWIS, Atlanta, Georgia.

There was no objection.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

#### WE MUST PASS HATES CRIMES BILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow is the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. What better way to honor this day than to act upon legislation that will help law enforcement investigate and prevent crimes based on discrimination?

That is why I ask my colleagues to join me to encourage the Republican leadership to bring the gentleman from Michigan's (Mr. CONYERS) bill, H.R. 1343, the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act, to the House floor.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my colleague, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON), and others that will be here this evening for their commitment to this issue and their time to speak about it.

Hate crimes have been a persistent problem in the United States. The FBI recently released its hate crimes statistics of 2000. Sadly the report indicated that bias-motivated crimes continue to increase. During the year 2000, law enforcement reported 8,063 bias-motivated criminal incidents, indicating a 3.5 percent increase since 1999. In this report, crimes based on race ranked number one, while crimes based on religion and sexual orientation ranked second and third.

The most disturbing part of this report is what it does not show. The official numbers barely scratch the surface of the hate crime problem across the country. The true number of hate crimes actually committed last year could top 50,000 according to the Southern Poverty Law Center. Yet hate crimes continue to go unreported because of victims' fear and lack of law enforcement resources.

Mr. Speaker, hate crimes continue to occur every day in our cities and small town. What is extremely disturbing is that some of these crimes are committed by children who have learned a pattern to hate. Such an incident occurred in my home State of California

on March 11 in Huntington Beach, California. Three teenagers confronted a Filipino-American in the rear parking lot of his place of employment.

The teens began shouting racial slurs and "white power" before beating him with metal pipes. After the attack, the victim was even more frightened when he received a call from a person identifying himself as a parent of one of the attackers. This parent proceeded to threaten the victim using racial slurs.

This pattern of violence, Mr. Speaker, cannot continue. Our children are learning to hate from their parents and from their peers. We must set an example in Congress by passing legislation that will help to prevent hate. That is why I am a proud co-sponsor of the gentleman from Michigan's (Mr. CONYERS) bipartisan bill, H.R. 1343, the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act. And Mr. Speaker, I am joined as a co-sponsor by 203 of my colleagues and a growing chorus that wants the Republican leadership to bring H.R. 1343 to the House floor. This bill would offer a real solution by strengthening existing Federal hate crimes laws. H.R. 1343 allows the United States Department of Justice to assist in local prosecutions as well as investigate and prosecute cases in which violence occurs because of the victim's sexual orientation, disability, or gender. It would also eliminate obstacles to Federal involvement in many cases of assaults or murder based on race or religion.

This legislation is too important to ignore, especially during a week the United Nations is reminding the world to end racial discrimination.

The Republican leadership must bring this bill before the House to show our Nation and the world that hate will not be tolerated in the United States. This Congress has a responsibility to fight against hate. And the Conyers bill will prove that commitment.

#### DO NOT INITIATE WAR ON IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I was recently asked why I thought it was a bad idea for the President to initiate a war against Iraq. I responded by saying that I could easily give a half a dozen reasons why; and if I took a minute, I could give a full dozen. For starters, here is a half a dozen.

Number one, Congress has not given the President the legal authority to wage war against Iraq as directed by the Constitution, nor does he have U.N. authority to do so. Even if he did, it would not satisfy the rule of law laid down by the Framers of the Constitution.

Number two, Iraq has not initiated aggression against the United States. Invading Iraq and deposing Saddam Hussein, no matter how evil a dictator

he may be, has nothing to do with our national security. Iraq does not have a single airplane in its air force and is a poverty-ridden Third World nation, hardly a threat to U.S. security. Stirring up a major conflict in this region will actually jeopardize our security.

Number three, a war against Iraq initiated by the United States cannot be morally justified. Arguing that someday in the future Saddam Hussein might pose a threat to us means that any nation any place in the world is subject to an American invasion without cause. This would be comparable to the impossibility of proving a negative.

Number four, initiating a war against Iraq will surely antagonize all neighboring Arab and Muslim nations as well as the Russians, the Chinese and the European Union, if not the whole world. Even the English people are reluctant to support Tony Blair's prodding of our President to invade Iraq. There is no practical benefit for such action. Iraq could end up in even more dangerous hands like Iran.

Number five, an attack on Iraq will not likely be confined to Iraq alone. Spreading the war to Israel and rallying all Arab nations against her may well end up jeopardizing the very existence of Israel. The President has already likened the current international crisis more to that of World War II than the more localized Viet Nam war. The law of unintended consequences applies to international affairs every bit as much as to domestic interventions, yet the consequences of such are much more dangerous.

Number six, the cost of a war against Iraq would be prohibited. We paid a heavy economic price for the Vietnam war in direct cost, debt and inflation. This coming war could be a lot more expensive. Our national debt is growing at a rate greater than \$250 billion per year. This will certainly accelerate. The dollar cost will be the least of our concerns compared to the potential loss of innocent lives, both theirs and ours. The systematic attack on civil liberties that accompanies all wars cannot be ignored. Already we hear cries for resurrecting the authoritarian program of constriction in the name of patriotism, of course.

Could any benefit come from all this war mongering? Possibly. Let us hope and pray so. It should be evident that big government is anathema to individual liberty. In a free society, the role of government is to protect the individual's right to life and liberty. The biggest government of all, the U.N. consistently threatens personal liberties and U.S. sovereignty. But our recent move toward unilateralism hopefully will inadvertently weaken the United Nations. Our participation more often than not lately is conditioned on following the international rules and courts and trade agreements only when they please us, flaunting the consensus without rejecting internationalism on principle, as we should.

The way these international events will eventually play out is unknown,